TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

The Committee on Finance to which was referred Senate Bill No. 301 entitled “An act relating to repealing the sunset on 30 V.S.A. § 248a” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 30 V.S.A. § 248a(i) is amended to read:

(i) Sunset of Commission authority. Effective on July 1, 2020-2025, no new applications for certificates of public good under this section may be considered by the Commission.

Sec. 2. REPORT ON CRITERIA

On or before February 1, 2021, the Public Utility Commission shall review the criteria used in awarding a certificate of public good under 30 V.S.A. § 248a and report to the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Committee on Energy and Technology any changes that should be made in light of the recent developments in telecommunications technology.

Sec. 3. 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 79, Sec. 25 is amended to read:

Sec. 25. OUTAGES AFFECTING E-911 SERVICE; REPORTING; RULE; E-911 BOARD

The E-911 Board shall adopt a rule establishing protocols for the E-911 Board to obtain or be apprised of, in a timely manner, system outages

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applicable to wireless service providers, providers of facilities-based, fixed
voice service that is not line-powered and to electric companies for the purpose
of enabling the E-911 Board to assess 911 service availability during such
outages. An outage for purposes of this section includes any loss of E-911
calling capacity, whether caused by lack of function of the telecommunications
subscriber’s backup power equipment, lack of function within a
telecommunications provider’s system, network failure, or an outage in the
electric power system. For purposes of this section, a network failure includes
the failure of backup power equipment that is owned and controlled solely by
the telecommunications provider. The rule shall incorporate the threshold
criteria established under 47 C.F.R. Part 4, § 4.9(e) as it pertains to outage
reporting requirements applicable to wireless service providers. The E-911
Board shall file a final proposed rule with the Secretary of State and with the
Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 841 on
or before February 1, 2020 September 30, 2020.
Sec. 4. OUTAGE REPORTING; LEGISLATIVE INTENT;
RECOMMENDATION
The General Assembly recognizes that, with respect to outage reporting
requirements applicable to wireless service providers, the federal threshold
criteria established under 47 C.F.R. Part 4, § 4.9(e) may not provide data at a
sufficient level of granularity to adequately inform the E-911 Board of outages
that raise significant public safety concerns for Vermonters. However, the
General Assembly also recognizes that more particularized reporting
requirements will impose additional burdens on Vermont wireless service
providers. Accordingly, to the extent a wireless service provider has the
capability of providing more granular outage data than is required under
applicable FCC rules, such provider may voluntarily report that data to the E-911 Board. The E-911 Board shall review all outage data reported by wireless
service providers and make a recommendation to the General Assembly on or
before January 1, 2021 as to whether the threshold criteria should be adjusted
in any manner to promote the public’s health, safety, and security.

Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act
relating to miscellaneous telecommunications changes”

(Committee vote: ____________)

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Senator ________________

FOR THE COMMITTEE